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Information on drying and handling malting barley available

There may be more need for air drying of malting barley this year than others, according to North Dakota State University (NDSU) Agricultural Extension Service agricultural engineer and grain drying expert, Ken Hellevang. Hellevang states that “germination is affected long before mold appears in the grain” and warns farmers to ensure that their drying bin has enough airflow to dry the barley before germination is lost. Germination is the first step in malting barley and therefore must be intact when purchased by maltsters. In an article published by NDSU Ag Communications, Hellevang outlines drying procedures and times. This article can be accessed at <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/news/newsreleases/2009/aug-17-2009/malting-barley-requires-special-care-when-drying>.

Other helpful resources include the NDSU Grain Drying, Handling and Storage Website

<http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/abeng/postharvest.htm> and a brochure titled *Harvesting Drying and Storing Malting Barley to Get Market Premiums* available on the Institute of Barley and Malt Sciences

http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/ibms/producers/documents/Harvesting_08_07_07_000.pdf and the American Malting Barley Association <http://www.ambainc.org/pub/Production/Harvesting.pdf> websites.

Hellevang is also available to answer questions regarding grain drying and storage at 701-231-7243 or Kenneth.hellevang@ndsu.edu.